



STATE OF MAINE
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
23 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA, MAINE
04333-0023

PAUL R. LEPAGE
GOVERNOR

WILLIAM H. BEARDSLEY
ACTING COMMISSIONER

EXHIBIT: #VII.A.

TO: Members of the State Board of Education

FROM: William H. Beardsley, Acting Commissioner*

DATE: March 9, 2016

SUBJECT: Receipt of the Report of Findings regarding the Request of Lesley University to Renew its Current Authorization to offer Academic Credit Programs in the State of Maine

BACKGROUND: The Lesley University was authorized by the State Board of Education (SBE) in 2011 to offer classes online and through face-to-face format at the Berwick Academy. Lesley University has received three five-year-renewals from the SBE since 2000.

The State Board of Education (SBE) at the February 10, 2016 meeting approved a review team to examine the Lesley University renewal application to offer academic credit programs in the State of Maine. On February 12, 2016 a video conference was conducted with Lesley University faculty and administrative staff at The University of Maine. A Lesley Report of Findings (Lesley Report) was written and submitted to the Higher Education Specialist at the Maine Department of Education. During the week of February 29, 2016, Lesley University received the Report of Findings to review for errors of fact. The report was returned to the Maine Department of Education with minimal corrections on March 1, 2016. An exhibit of receipt was generated for the March 9, 2016 SBE meeting.

Lesley University is incorporated under the laws of the State of Massachusetts and is authorized to grant undergraduate and graduate degrees by the Massachusetts Board of Higher Education and the Massachusetts Department of Education. The institution has been continuously accredited by the New England Association of Schools and Colleges since 1952.

RECOMMENDATION: That the State Board of Education accepts the review team report of findings concerning the Lesley University application to continue to offer its credit bearing programs in the State of Maine. The period of approval would be from spring 2016 to spring 2021.

*Presented by Ángel Martínez Loredó, Higher Education Specialist
Maine Department of Education